

a third country. However, in a recent letter to the Prime Minister, the U.S. President conveyed that this administration would urge Pakistan to create an atmosphere in which dialogue could be resumed without the shadow of extremist violence.

Demands of IT professionals

4472. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated demands, both for Information Technology Personnel to meet domestic requirements as well as demand from other countries by standard categories, as at present and for the next five years *vis-a-vis* present intake capacity and output; and

(b) the details of the comprehensive time bound action plan formulated for training of youngsters in IT to meet domestic requirements and cater to the emerging global requirements of trained manpower by various countries?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM's) Human Resource Development (HRD) Survey, there were 3,40,000 IT Professionals employed in the country as on 31st March, 2000. By 2008, IT industry would require 23.67 lakh IT Professionals in three categories—2 lakh for Category A (Software Products), 5.77 lakh for Category B (IT Services & E-business) and 15.9 lakhs for Category C (IT enabled services and E-business).

The Task Force on HRD in IT in its interim report has estimated international demand, notionally, as 20% of the overall manpower requirements. This report further adds that the rate of growth of IT sector worldwide cannot be predicted with absolute certainty and it is difficult to predict how much of Indian IT manpower would be attracted away by other countries.

(b) Task Force on HRD in IT in its interim report has made forty-seven (47) specific recommendations to ensure adequate supply of manpower for the Information Technology sector. The objective is to

provide quality professionals for both meeting the domestic and global demands by strengthening and upgrading the technical education system in the country with special focus on increasing the intake in "Quality" Institutions and upgrading some of them to improve the quality of their programmes. These recommendations specifically relate to IT faculty development, IT curriculum and courseware development, strengthening of computing and networking facilities, digitization and modernization of libraries, use of IT for administrative support services and promoting interface with industry. Strategy focuses on overall institutional development with networking. Measures identified for development of IT faculty include scaling up of Early Faculty Induction Programme (EFIP), Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) and introduction of Sequential Post Graduate Programmes, allowing transmigration and switchover of faculty from interfacing disciplines. These recommendations are aimed at increasing the availability of quality IT manpower in the country and to help Indian Software services sector to increase its productivity and move up the value chain, enabling the country to capture larger share of global markets of IT software and services.

Problems of IT Industry

4473. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts taken by Government to keep pace with the demands of the industry;

(b) whether Government have appointed any Committee to examine the problems of the industry in depth;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The steps taken by Government to promote IT industry are given in the enclosed Statement. (See below)